



Transit Advisory Board
Thursday, May 13, 2021
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting (Online) Via ZOOM
Meeting ID: 941 8090 5381
Phone#: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782

Members Present

Christopher Ramirez, Chair (ZOOM); Kathy Foster, Vice Chair (ZOOM); Markie Anderle (ZOOM); Harris Balkin (ZOOM @ 5:34pm); Ryan Lee Haack (ZOOM); Jennifer Jackson (ZOOM) Don McIver (ZOOM); Rikk Murphy (ZOOM); Steve Pilon (ZOOM), Patricia Salisbury (ZOOM); Hodgin Serrullo (ZOOM); Jacqueline Smith, PTAB (ABSENT)

Staff Members Present

Andrew DeGarmo, Principal Planner (ZOOM); Zechariah Freeman, Transit Marketing Communications Coordinator (ZOOM), Margaret Lucero, Executive Assistant (ZOOM); Ava Montoya, Public Information Officer (ZOOM); Sandra Saiz, Operations Division Manager (ZOOM)

Visitors Present

Adam Leuschel, Assistant City Attorney (ZOOM); Helen Maestas, Deputy Director of Constituent Services/Boards & Commissions (ZOOM); Aaron Nieto, Operations Administrator (ZOOM); Terra Reed, Department of Municipal Development Division, Vision Zero Coordinator (ZOOM); Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (ZOOM), Walter Fazzio (PHONE)

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Ramirez would like to start off the meeting with a land acknowledgement. The City of Albuquerque is on indigenous land and referred to as Tiwa land. That is currently represented by Sandia and Isleta pueblos. We ask for permission and blessing for us to be here and serve the community.

Call to Order

Christopher Ramirez, Chair, began the meeting at 4:03 pm.

Approval of Agenda or Additions

Christopher Ramirez asked to remove Free Fares & City Budget Resolution from agenda's New Business because resolution is still in review with Council.

Steve Pilon: Can we talk about sharing links via email?

Christopher Ramirez: I will add that to New Business.

Don McIver: We had an answer to San Pedro ART station, why is it rolled over to this month's agenda?

Christopher Ramirez: We keep things on the agenda for updates.

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Don McIver motioned to approve the amended agenda and Steve Pilon 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Markie Anderle, Kathy

Foster, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgins Serrullo.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ramirez asked for a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 minutes. Patricia Salisbury motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Ryan Lee Haack 2nd the motion. The motion was voice approved by Markie Anderle, Kathy Foster, Ryan Lee Haack, Jennifer Jackson, Don McIver, Steve Pilon, Rikk Murphy, Patricia Salisbury and Hodgins Serrullo.

Public Comment – *Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment(s).*

Helen Maestas: There's been some questions and concerns expressed about appointments and re-appointments, when you are appointed to the board you can serve up to two consecutive terms (3 years per term), for re-appointment there is a process, you don't automatically get an additional 3 years. Members who are reapplying are not guaranteed or promised a reappointment. We look at who we have in the queue at the time and based on the applicants we will select to either appoint or re-appoint. We have a process of communication and are turning our attention to the members who are expired or close to expiring. With new appointments we send a letter out from our office with the information. For the members who were not re-appointed we notify them that they were not selected.

Walter Fazio: I am on the leadership committee for Sandia commuter group. I would encourage the schedules be adjusted to allow buses to come on the base. There is more people coming back to work. *(Some parts were inaudible or cut out)*

Terra Reed: Bike to work/wherever day is next Friday. I will post the link in the chat. There will be a survey, photo contest, and a biking challenge. There will be free fares for passengers with bikes and a video will be posted on how to put your bike on the bus rack.

Steve Pilon: How many people are in your Sandia committee group, how many ride on a weekly basis, is there a contact for your group?

Walter Fazio: A couple hundred on the list and not sure how many ride on a weekly basis. You can reach out to wcfazio@sandia.gov.

Kathy Foster: I'd like to get clarification on mask wearing on public transit.

Patricia Salisbury: There is not a ramp at the #8 bus stop to Coronado Center I've called 311 and was told Coronado is private property. I've reported to Macy's three times. Can Transit contact Coronado center to get a ramp there? The #8 changes routes on the weekends. We need the Menaul bus to stay on the same route. The ART bus goes through Winrock but does not stop. The bus needs to stop somewhere along Winrock.

Adam Leuschel: Patricia I would suggest you contact the City's Office of Civil Rights. They will be well equipped to deal with this issue.

TAB Chairperson's Report – Christopher Ramirez, Chair

Helen Maestas: If you have any questions or concerns about your term feel free to reach out to me directly. I will add my contact information to chat.

Patricia Salisbury: Is Para-Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) staffed?

Helen Maestas: No, if you have any recommendations, I'm happy to reach out to them.

Don McIver: To what degree can the Transit Advisory Board help support the mission of the Para-Transit Advisory Board while it is not fully staffed?

Helen Maestas: I will review the ordinances to see what would be allowable.

Adam Leuschel: I am the advising attorney for both boards and we are advertising aggressively.

Christopher Ramirez: I would encourage you all to attend the PTAB meetings, they are on the third Tuesday of every other month. The City Council is meeting tonight and meeting about the budget. Councilor Sena had introduced an amendment in the budget calling for free fares. Patricia and I visited with the Senior Affairs Advisory Board about seniors riding for free. It was a great opportunity to do some brainstorming opportunities for seniors via Sun van or the city bus. The PIO is excited to connect with Ava and Zack to do some joint marketing. We hosted a virtual Transit Town Hall on Tuesday.

Ryan Lee Haack: The issues I heard were about drivers and their application about the rules and enforcing them.

Director's Report-Sandra Saiz, Fixed Route Manager

Sandra Saiz began her report with ridership numbers. April's ridership for fixed route is 356,158 passengers with an increase of 12.74%. Para Transit ridership is 9,589 passengers with a 158% increase. We are still encouraging our drivers to keep their area clean. They were given a bag with supplies and extra masks. Our drivers are doing retraining with our Employee Assistance doctor, who is providing de-escalating training and it's very individualized. We're working hard to recruit drivers. Transit is working on adding commuter service on July 5 and bring back some on a dial a ride basis, similar to the 50 route. Sun vans will be used to help with this plan. This is the beginning of the planning stages.

Ridership reports were emailed to TAB members 1 day prior to meeting

Andrew De Garmo: We will look at our ridership from pre-pandemic, as a guide, and driver availability to put out as much service as we can.

Christopher Ramirez: Will this information be on the website?

Andre DeGarmo: We will give notice on our website and social media.

Christopher Ramirez: How do we work across inside the city departments so more of the community knows?

Steven Pilon: Congratulations to Transit for thinking outside the box. Sun van is an underutilized resource and I hope you also consider modifying the way the sun vans are used for other people. Is there a proposal to allocate the money to cover the loss of fares? Maybe that money can be used to make up the pay differential for the drivers.

Sandra Saiz: I will have to differ to Chris on that question.

Patricia Salisbury: I'd like to suggest a Sun van be used as a circular between Coronado, Winrock, and Trader Joes from Uptown Transit Center.

Sandra Saiz: Masks are still required on the bus till September 13, per TSA. Marketing is working on a poster with that information for passengers and employees.

Christopher Ramirez: I'd like to address Steve's questions. The CARES Act awarded 20 million the City of Albuquerque public transit. 32 million was awarded this year and is shared between public transits. It's not reoccurring but makes up for any loss revenue from free fares. We need to advocate for both free fares and driver pay equity. Are we tracking Sun van users who are not paying? Can we do a mini story on social media about the de-escalating training? Can we do more education on how the buses are clean? Residents of the Tiny Village commented about being singled out about having or not having fares. How can we be thoughtful about the Gibson & Gateway Center and getting people there? Please share these questions with Danny.

Andrew DeGarmo: A number of our routes are not running full service. There are some restrictions on our end, with driver shortage.

Zack Freeman: We do have video regarding cleaning of the buses. We have a poster campaign coming out that has a Transit safety umbrella which outlines all the things that have been done to keep people safe during the pandemic. *(Zack had technical difficulties with screen sharing feature, he could not show the video for the ABQRide Plus App)*

Unfinished Business

Andrew DeGarmo: We are hoping to see the RFP very soon. The San Pedro ART station is under design and hope to start construction late summer or beginning of fall.

Steve Pilon: Has there been any consideration on how we can integrate the Sun Vans into the redesign of the RFP.

Andre DeGarmo: We weren't specific in the wording of the RFP language that we'd like to consider alternative means.

New Business

Christopher Ramirez: Adam, will you be able to answer Steve's question about Open Meetings Act?

Adam Leuschel: When you have a quorum of TAB members in person, virtually, or over email you are considered to be in a meeting and if you discuss anything board related with a quorum of members present that is a violation of the Open Meeting Act if you did not properly notify the public about this meeting. It is not a violation of an Open Meetings Act if you send out an email to members to collect ideas for topics or changing a meeting time. It's when you get into the greater details of things that are usual discussed at board meeting that's when you come up against an Open Meeting Act violation.

Christopher Ramirez: How can we share resources?

Adam Leuschel: Public social media pages may be one avenue for the board to use.

Kathy Foster: Is there a guideline or policy with that? Is there wording or rules and regulations for a social media page?

Adam Leuschel: I will have to connect with Helen and get clarification.

Steve Pilon: Does the fact that we are an advisory and non-decision making board, make any difference as far as Open Meetings Act is concerned and does posting links to publically available stuff on the internet violate anything?

Adam Leuschel: This current Administration has taken the position that they would like all City Boards and Commissions to adhere to Open Meetings Act guidelines with the idea being to promote public transparency and to allow the members of the public to participate. I would continue to advise all boards to adhere to Open Meetings Act, unless I hear otherwise.

Christopher Ramirez: Adam, would you be willing to talk about Open Meeting Act at our next meeting?

Adam Leuschel: Yes, I can do that. I will also put my email in chat for any other questions.

Steven Pilon: What about posting articles on free fares?

Adam Leuschel: If you post it with no commentary or further discussion that's fine, but when providing your opinion as a board member that's violating Open Meetings Act.

Christopher Ramirez: I'd like to recognize Brendan Miller he is transitioning off the board and thank him for his 12 years of service.

Brendan Miller: Thank you it's been great serving with all of you.

Zack Freeman: We are still in development with the APP and will continue working with the developer to convey responses from our users. If you have time please download the APP and you can follow along with my power point on the next meeting when I can share my screen. The buses have 2 multi-language free fares posters and working to add more. There are some buses in the shop that we were not able to get the posters on, but we will get those one as soon as we can.

Christopher Ramirez: Zack please put your email in chat and board members please download the APP.

Second Round of Public Comment *(Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment(s)).*
No public comment

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 5:40 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021; 4:00 PM via online (ZOOM)

Below are the chat messages exchanged during the ZOOM Meeting

16:20:46 From Patricia salisbury : I will continue only on my phone!
16:21:41 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : We are coming up on time Helen. I am more than happy to give you time in the Chair's report if you need more time.
16:24:29 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : Thanks Terra, I also see your hand.
16:24:55 From Terra Reed | CABQ DMD | she/her : Thanks Christopher!
16:28:08 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : That's great! Looking forward to also sharing about the free bus day next Friday!
16:28:23 From Terra Reed | CABQ DMD | she/her : <https://bikethruburque.com/>
16:30:16 From Don McIver : wcfabio@sandia.gov

16:38:44 From Helen Maestas: She/Her/Hers : Helen Maestas, hmaestas@cabq.gov, 505-768-3322

16:45:03 From Helen Maestas: She/Her/Hers : [https://www.cabq.gov/transit/paratransit-service/paratransit-advisory-board-ptab#:~:text=Advisory%20Board%20\(PTAB\)-,Information%20about%20the%20Paratransit%20Advisory%20Board%20\(PTAB\).,the%20month%2C%20every%20other%20month](https://www.cabq.gov/transit/paratransit-service/paratransit-advisory-board-ptab#:~:text=Advisory%20Board%20(PTAB)-,Information%20about%20the%20Paratransit%20Advisory%20Board%20(PTAB).,the%20month%2C%20every%20other%20month).

16:47:14 From Helen Maestas: She/Her/Hers : All Board & Commission Web Page: <https://www.cabq.gov/clerk/boards-commissions>

16:47:55 From Helen Maestas: She/Her/Hers : Universal Board & Commission Application (can be used to apply for any Board or Commission): <https://www.cabq.gov/clerk/boards-commissions/boards-and-commissions-membership-application>

16:52:37 From Helen Maestas: She/Her/Hers : Thank you all! Please reach out if I can do anything to support you in your board service!

16:53:15 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : Do we have info on seniors using SunVan for free?

16:54:50 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : That's great to hear about deescalation training for fixed route drivers.

17:03:00 From Ava Montoya : Thanks Christopher, I've been in touch with Family & Community Services about doing cross-promotion to help spread the word about Transit routes that go to community centers. Zack's team has a great map of all these resources.

17:03:08 From Ava Montoya : I haven't worked with DSA but I look forward to it!

17:03:11 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : That's great Ava.

17:07:05 From Steve Pilon : The point I am trying to make is that perhaps we would be better off using the fare revenue to increase driver pay so we could attract more drivers rather than eliminating fares

17:09:02 From Steve Pilon : Also we will not be able to charge for Sun Van if we do not charge for fixed route

17:09:41 From Steve Pilon : Federal regs limit paratransit fares to 2x fixed route, I think

17:09:56 From Steve Pilon : 2x0=0

17:13:03 From Markie Anderle (she/her) : I want to state for the public record that I agree with the statement made by Chris in which they noted that we should not have to choose between fare free and pay equity

17:17:03 From Steve Pilon : Unfortunately, when budget is limited, we may have to choose between two desirable goals

17:20:55 From Andrew de Garmo to Margaret Lucero(Privately) : Did you make him co-host so he can share?

17:21:09 From Margaret Lucero to Andrew de Garmo(Privately) : yes

17:29:24 From Adam Leuschel he/him : aleuschel@cabq.gov

17:31:29 From Steve Pilon : Thank you Bendan

17:31:40 From Steve Pilon : Brendan

17:32:26 From Ryan Haack : Thank you, Brendan!

17:33:14 From Margaret Lucero : Thank you for your time on the Board Brendan and congratulations!!

17:35:41 From Don McIver : Any plans for pasting the poster at different parts of town?

17:36:02 From Kathy Foster : Beautiful!

17:36:10 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : Can we get this image sent to us or shared on social media?

17:36:14 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : Please and thanks.

17:36:20 From Kathy Foster : Thank you, all. I have to jump off. Great meeting!

17:36:31 From Christopher (he or they) Tiwa Lands - Albuquerque : Thanks Margaret for sharing.

17:36:57 From Terra Reed | CABQ DMD | she/her : I have to run - thanks everyone! Lots of good discussion and learning today!

17:36:59 From Ava Montoya : Yes, currently working on more widespread promotion of this + getting these languages on our website permanently. Thanks Christopher!

17:38:02 From Zfreeman : zfreeman@cabq.gov